

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7465

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 0728

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CI

SUBJECT: KUBISCH-HUERTA MEETING: ST. GEORGE'S SCHOOL

REF: SANTIAGO 0661

1. FOLLOWING IS DRAFT MEMCON WHICH HAS NOT BEEN SEEN BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY KUBISCH. IT SHOULD NOT BE DISTRIBUTED UNTIL APPROVED BY HIM.
2. KUBISCH RAISED THE PROBLEM WITH REGARD TO ST. GEORGE'S SCHOOL IN THE CONTEXT OF THE NEED TO BE CAREFUL TO KEEP RELATIVELY SMALL ISSUES IN OUR RELATIONSHIP FROM MAKING OUR COOPERATION MORE DIFFICULT. HE SAID FATHER HESBURGH OF NOTRE DAME HAD SPOKEN TO HIM SEVERAL TIMES ABOUT THIS PROBLEM, AND PROVINCIAL LEWERS AND OTHERS OF THE HOLY CROSS CONGREGATION HAVE BEEN IN FREQUENT TOUCH WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE.
3. CONTINUING, CHARGE THOMPSON NOTED THAT PROVINCIAL LEWERS HAD BEEN MAKING A SERIOUS EFFORT TO WORK OUT A SOLUTION TO THIS PROBLEM WITH THE GOC VIA AMBASSADOR HEITMANN. PROVINCIAL LEWERS HAD PRESENTED PROPOSALS FOR A SOLUTION TO AMBASSADOR HEITMANN WHICH WERE SUBSEQUENTLY REJECTED BY THE GOC, IN A COMMUNICATION WHICH PRESCRIBED TERMS ON WHICH THE GOC BELIEVED THE MATTER COULD BE SETTLED. LEWERS HAD PROMISED HEITMANN THAT THE CONGREGATION WOULD CONSIDER THE GOC TERMS AT ITS MEETING SCHEDULED FOR EARLY FEBRUARY. THIS WAS DONE, AND PROVINCIAL LEWERS HAS NOW PRESENTED A COUNTER-PROPOSAL TO AMBASSADOR HEITMANN FOR TRANSMITTAL TO THE GOC.

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4. UNFORTUNATELY, WHILE THIS NEGOTIATION BETWEEN THE AUTHORIZED SPOKESMAN FOR THE CONGREGATION, WHICH OWNS THE

SCHOOL, AND THE GOC HAS BEEN GOING FORWARD, THERE HAVE BEEN SIMULTANEOUS EXCHANGES BETWEEN THE GOC INTERVENTOR AT ST. GEORGE'S AND HOLY CROSS PRIESTS IN CHILE WHICH HAVE NOT CONTRIBUTED TO A SOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM. THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN DEVELOPMENTS WHICH GIVE CAUSE FOR CONCERN: THE GOC INTERVENTOR HAS ORDERED THAT HOLY CROSS PRIESTS AT THE SCHOOL TURN OVER ALL KEYS TO THE PROPERTY AND PREPARE TO MOVE OUT IN A MATTER OF DAYS. THERE ARE REPORTS THAT FATHER PLASKER MAY BE EXPELLED FROM CHILE. THE MOST RECENT DEVELOPMENT IS THAT, REPORTEDLY AS AUTHORIZED BY THE GOC INTERVENTOR, A BULLDOZER FROM THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS BEGAN ON FEBRUARY 6 TO PREPARE A ROADBED PARALLELING THE HOLYCROSS PROPERTY LINE SOME 26 METERS INSIDE THE WALL BOUNDING THE ST. GEORGE'S PROPERTY.

5. ADMIRAL HUERTA SAID HIS COLLEAGUE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, ADMIRAL CASTRO, IS A FORCEFUL AND CLEVER MAN, WITH WHOM WE SHOULD DISCUSS THIS MATTER. HE SAID THERE HAVE BEEN DEVELOPMENTS IN THE WEEK SINCE CHARGE THOMPSON LAST RAISED THIS MATTER WITH HIM. ADMIRAL CASTRO DOES NOT WANT TO CONDUCT A NEGOTIATION THROUGH AMBASSADOR HEITMANN ON THIS PROBLEM.

6. HUERTA ADDED THAT THE PAPAL NUNCIO WENT TO SEE THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION RECENTLY ABOUT THE CASE OF FATHER PLASKER. THE PROBLEMS FATHER PLASKER IS HAVING INVOLVE HIS ACTIVITIES SINCE SEPTEMBER 11, NOT HIS ROLE AT ST. GEORGE'S BEFORE THAT TIME. THE MINISTER THOUGHT THE PAPAL NUNCIO HAD DISCOVERED THAT THE REPORTS HE HAD RECEIVED ABOUT THIS PROBLEM WERE RATHER CONFUSED.

7. DISCUSSION ENDED ON THIS INCONCLUSIVE NOTE.
POPPER

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